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By: Jennifer M. Luhman  
Jennifer M. Luhman

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: S-12

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: David C. Hovda et al.

Application No.: 10/656,597

Filed: September 5, 2003

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR  
TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS

Examiner: Peffley, Michael F.

Art Unit: 3739

Confirmation No.: 7953

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER  
37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

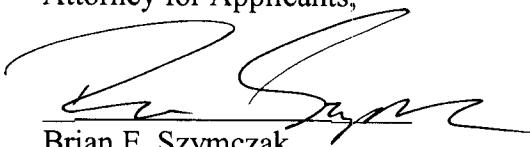
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the references that are listed on the attached PTO form 1449.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue there from.

These citations do not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims.

This IDS is being filed after the mailing date of a Non-final Office Action, on the merits. Accordingly, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$180 and any additional fee or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0359 of ArthroCare Corporation in order to effectuate this filing.

Respectfully submitted  
Attorney for Applicants,



Brian E. Szymczak  
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Date: 5/2/2008

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